

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA**

**BETHEL J. WAGES,** )  
 )  
 )  
**Plaintiff,** )  
 )  
 )  
**v.** )      **Case No. CIV-19-106-SPS**  
 )  
 )  
**COMMISSIONER of the Social** )  
**Security Administration,** )  
 )  
 )  
**Defendant.** )

**OPINION AND ORDER AWARDING  
ATTORNEY'S FEES TO THE PLAINTIFF UNDER THE EAJA**

Plaintiff Bethel J. Wages was the prevailing party in this action under the Social Security Act. Plaintiff has now filed a Stipulated Motion for Award of Attorney Fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act [Docket No. 19], indicating that the parties have stipulated to an attorney's fee in the amount of \$5,000.00.

Upon review of the record herein, the Court finds that the agreed amount is reasonable and that the Commissioner should be ordered to pay it to the Plaintiff as the prevailing party herein. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d)(1)(A) ("Except as otherwise specifically provided by statute, a court shall award to a prevailing party other than the United States fees and other expenses, in addition to any costs awarded pursuant to subsection (a), incurred by that party in any civil action (other than cases sounding in tort)[.]"); *see also* *Manning v. Astrue*, 510 F.3d 1246, 1251 (10th Cir. 2007) ("The EAJA therefore permits attorney's fees reimbursement to financially eligible prevailing parties, who make a proper application, and not to their attorneys.").

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED that the Stipulated Motion for Award of Attorney Fees under the Equal Access to Justice Act [Docket No. 19] is hereby GRANTED to the Plaintiff as the prevailing party herein. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that if the Plaintiff's attorney is subsequently awarded any fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 406(b)(1), said attorney shall refund the smaller amount of such fees to the Plaintiff pursuant to *Weakley v. Bowen*, 803 F.2d 575, 580 (10th Cir. 1986).

**DATED** this 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.



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Steven P. Shredeler  
United States Magistrate Judge  
Eastern District of Oklahoma